GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2934
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006
EXPLORING DEEP URANIUM RESERVES
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to explore deep uranium reserves by electromagnetic aerial survey for the expansion of the atomic programme of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any step to develop indigenously the instruments required for the programme;

(d) whether the Department of Atomic Energy, Nuclear Minerals Division and Uranium Corporation of India Limited(UCIL) have made efforts to explore uranium reserves in various parts of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the factors taken into consideration in view of the cost involved in indigenous research and external dependency in the production of heavy water and atomic energy?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research,(AMD), Hyderabad, is engaged in Survey and Exploration of uranium resources. To explore for deep seated uranium deposits, AMD plans to conduct Airborne Electromagnetic Time Domain Surveys over 14 identified proterozoic basins in a phased manner. For locating shallow deposits in North Delhi Fold Belt, Airborne Electro Magnetic (Frequency Domain) Surveys is planned in parts of Rajasthan and Haryana.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) AMD is making continuous efforts to locate high grade large tonnage unconformity related, sandstone type, albitite type and vein type uranium deposits in various parts of the country.

(f) Action has already been initiated for effective exploration for identifying additional uranium resources through development of indigenous capability for locating deep seated deposits, enhancing the analytical capabilities of exploration as well as of processing laboratories and development of process technology for the exploitation of all proven deposits. Considering the rapid increase in the energy requirements and restrictions in nuclear area, costs involved in indigenous research are modest. The country is self-sufficient in Heavy Water. The country has also developed a strong self reliant capability in all aspects of atomic energy.